MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Sir, before proceeding to the next business on the agenda I wish to make a statement for the consideration of the Chair. Standing Order 9 *i. e.* clause 27 of the Sri Mulam Assembly Manual, reads thus:—

"The first hour of every meeting shall be available for asking and answering of questions.

Sir, for this Session, 544 questions appear to have been admitted by the President and included in the list of questions to be answered. Sir, a special characteristic of this Session is that the questions and answers included in the agenda fixed for each day do not cover at least half an hour. I believe that the answering of questions on matters of public importance will be more effective and useful for bringing to light and consequently to the notice of the Government the illegalities and irregularities committed by different branches of Government. Under these circumstances, I wish to know from the Chair whether it is proper and just to table only a few questions for each day.

PRESIDENT: Well, the Chair certainly will agree with the complaint that has been urged by the Honourable member. It is true that the first hour must always be available for answering questions and I am also personally aware of the fact that a large number of questions have already been admitted by the President. Why it is that few questions were being allowed for each day, I am not able to say off-hand. But, however, in as much as a complaint has been now made, I will investigate into the matter and find out why there has been delay; and if the delay is avoidable, I certainly shall see that more questions are tabled for each day.

The House will now resume discussion on demands for grants. Demand II is now under discussion.

VOTING OF DEMAND FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE,

Motion No. 83—(*contd.*)

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Sir, I support the motion, and in doing so, I wish to make a few remarks on the suggestion thrown out by my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai. Mr. Thanu Pillai complains that the surplus on account of the Trivandrum Electric Supply Fund was carried over to the Quilon Electric Supply, and that thereby the Trivandrum consumers stand to suffer. This is a very important question as it relates to dealings between Government and Municipalities. Sir, the funds for the Trivandrum Electric Supply were not raised from the Trivandrum Municipality. It was financed by Government in the first instance. But in regard to other Municipalities, we do not get this concession from the Government. Any amount spent in the Trivandrum City is spent for the whole State because Trivandrum is the Capital. Trivandrum being the metropolis we take it that sums spent in it are spent for the whole of Travancore. We have already spent a crore of rupees and I know whether another crore will also be spent by us for the improvement of the City because a good portion of the City is a disgrace to any civilised country. The portion between Cantonment and Thycaud,

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the portion known as Thampanoor Valley or *Eia* and so also the portion from Cantonment to Kunnukuzhi are most insanitary and it is not becoming of a civilised Government to keep them in the present condition. From over one crore of rupees spent, only Rs.10 lakhs is spent for Electric Supply. The rest, though capital according to the Financial Secretary, is unproductive. If a small amount that has yielded by way of return is not allowed for other investments, I think we are not treated fairly. Sir, after all, the rate per unit in Trivandrum is not high. I am not one who would say that the rate should not be as low as possible because, all people should be able to enjoy the amenities. The rate in Kottayam is higher than this. It is 8 as. per unit.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether there are other parts of the civilised world than Kottayam which charge more than 8 annas per unit?

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Not in Travancore, Sir, I can boldly say.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*). Is it not a private Company that charges such a rate?

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*). Yes, it is a private Company.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know the rate per unit in Bangalore?

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): I think it is considerably less. But conditions are different there.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I take it that it is less than 3 annas?

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Is it the member's opinion that Government should also supply electricity on a profit-bearing basis as a private Company does?

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): I think, when we invest money on profitable concerns, the idea of profit is there. An investment on a reproductive work means that the idea of profit is there.

I support the motion.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Sir, I wish to say a few words and I do so as the member for the Trivandrum Municipal town. That moneys have been spent on Trivandrum from time to time is, as conceded by my friend, to some extent unavoidable, because it happens to be the capital of the State. For that reason, I am not going to say that Trivandrum should alone be lit up and not other places. I can appreciate, Sir, people in mofussil parts asking for roads, bridges and other amenities of life. I have full sympathy for them and I would ask them to look into the question when finance allows. But in supporting the motion I have to say that the people of Travancore are generally not very rich: they are poor and the rates and taxes heaped upon them they are unable to bear. The people of Trivandrum are as unable to suffer as the people in other parts of the State.

I am surprised, however, Sir, that Mr. Kuriyan has characterised the valley between Tampanoor and Thycaud as to disgrace civilisation.

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[Sadasya Tilakan T. K. Velu Pillai.]

It is absolutely wrong. I am reminded of Samuel Gulliver who, when he came down from Lilliput, used to look down on his countrymen because the Lilliputians with whom he stayed for some time were only six inches high. And when he returned from Brobdingnag, he looked up because the Brobdingnagians were giants I do not know how Mr. Kuriyan thought that the Tampanoor valley is a disgrace. Sir, it is nature that made it a valley. Poor people live there; and I can definitely say to this House that, if there is any part of the City or any other place where poor people live comfortably, it is in the Tampanoor valley.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member of opinion that that valley need not be improved?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I am really surprised that a member of standing like Mr. Asan cannot wait till I express my idea. That is one thing. Mr. Asan knows that I can take care of my ideas

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is it one of the beauty spots of Trivandrum, the Thampanoor Valley? (*Laughter.*)

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): All right, Sir; I will say that it is the meridian of Greenwich from where enlightenment flows to all parts of the world.

If you really think, Sir, that, for the improvement of the Trivandrum town, the Thampanoor Valley must be acquired, by all means, acquire the whole of it. I am not against that. But it is a fact that poor people live there. If you think that conditions of civilized life require that that valley must be acquired, you may do it. But what has that to do with the reduction of the rate now charged by the Electric Department? Certainly, it is not urged that the reduction is necessary for the poor Pulayas and Parayas who now live comfortably in the Thampanoor Valley. Therefore, I must repeat that it was quite unnecessary, it was absolutely wrong, on the part of an Honourable member to have characterised the Tampanoor Valley as of a disgrace.

I support the motion because there seems to be some fairness in the reduction asked for. The people of Trivandrum are quite as much unable to pay the present high rates as the people in other parts of Travancore.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Does the member belong to Thampanoor? (*Laughter.*)

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I do not belong to the Thampanoor Valley, Sir (*Laughter.*) I think I am standing on an eminence. Further, I may have lands not only in Tampanoor but in other parts of the country as well. I know there are various people who are interested in the Thampanoor Valley. Whether I am interested in it or not is a different question; and it does not arise now. But again I must say that it was due to sheer ignorance of the conditinos there that my friend Mr. Kuriyan was led to characterise it as a disgrace to the town of Trivandrum.

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MR. P. C. KURIYAH (*Kottayam I*): Sir, I protest most emphatically against the observations of the member about me. Some time back he said I was like the Lilliputian. Perhaps, compared to him, I may be only a Lilliputian. And now he says that I am ignorant of the conditions in Thampanoor.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I never said, Sir, that my friend was like a Lilliputian ; I referred only to the Samuel Gulliver mentality. People who are accustomed to see only bad places mistake good places also for bad places. That was my point.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I also rise to support the motion. The Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme is a solitary instance, of a reproductive capital work undertaken by the Government in recent years, which has turned out to be a really remunerative concern ; and I have, therefore, no hesitation in heartily congratulating our energetic and far-sighted Electrial Chief Engineer on the signal success he has achieved in this, his maiden venture. But, Sir, the policy of the Department seems to be to make huge profits out of such investments. As it is, I think the Department can very well afford to make a reduction in its rates. Despite the present exorbitant rates, the number of private consumers in this town is on the increase. Therefore I am sure that, if the rates are reduced, there will be undoubtedly a rapid steady increase in the number of consumers, so much so that what the department is likely to lose by this reduction will be more than made up for by the increase in the number of consumers.

In this connection, I want to say a word or two about the unsatisfactory method in which the streets in Trivandrum are being furnished with electric lights. I concede that the responsibility of providing the streets with lights rests entirely with the Municipallty. But, Sir, due to some disagreement between the Municipality and the Electrical Department with regard to the rates, the people of the town are being deprived of the benefit of electric lights in many of the important streets in the town. I presume, Sir, that the Municipality is the biggest consumer of the electrical energy in Trivandrum. It is really regrettable that, in spite of repeated representations, the Department has not been able to come to an agreement with the Municipality. There are several streets in Trivandrum where supply posts have been fixed, and that for the convenience of certain private consumers. Although such streets have got the supply posts, they have not yet been furnished with electric lights I would therefore draw the pointed attention of the Electrical Chief Engineer to this matter and urge upon him the desirability of settling the matter with the Municipality as early as possible and of providing electric lights for these streets by fixing lights at least to those supply posts which are already installed in many of the streets in the Trivandrum city.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I support the motion. When I go through the pages of the budget, I feel gratified to find that there is at least this commercial venture on the part of Government which has proved a success financially. But that is no reason why the Government should take undue advantage of the powers vested in them under the Electricity Regulation which was enacted for the purpose of regulating the supply of electrical energy in the country. Under that Regulation, Government alone are competent to start electrical installations, and wherever a private agency wants to do it, such agency must apply for and get license from Government. One of the reasons then urged to justify the Government being given such power was that the public must be protected from the profiteering tendencies on the part of private commercial concerns. Now, Sir, the Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme yields a net profit of 9 per cent on the investment. Of this, 5 per cent. is set apart as interest on the investment, and 4 per cent. is accumulated as a reserve fund. At the present rate of interest in the money market, it must be admitted that 4 per cent. is more than a reasonable return on capital invested. Is it fair, Sir, on the part of the Government, in the circumstances, to charge for supply of current at the present high rate? Are they themselves not profiteering while, in the Regulation, they wanted powers to prevent profiteering. The present high rate charged by Government in Trivandrum has helped the private concerns at Nagercoil and Kottayam to keep up their rates also. Unless the Government reduce their rates, how can they reasonably expect private concerns to reduce the rates?

I may assure Mr. K. P. P. Menon that his idea of building up a reserve fund for electricity is not going to become an accomplished fact. The Financial Secretary has already stated in his speech that, in Madras and other places, the profits yielded by such concerns of the Government are added on to the general revenues. Mr. Menon need not be surprised if, therefore, next year or the year after, the whole of the accumulations of his reserve fund is added on to the general reserves. He need not therefore fight shy of reducing the rates for fear that his reserve fund may go down.

With these words, I support the motion.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I also wish to support the motion. In doing so, I may say, Sir, that I would not have stood up to speak but for the fact that Mr. Asan referred to the possibility of private concerns in other Municipal towns keeping up their rates high, following the example of the Government. I do not for a moment agree that the demand by the Trivandrumites, for a reduction in the rate charged by the Electrical Department, is justifiable: because the Government have invested lakhs of rupees for the improvement of the Trivandrum town. In the case of the water supply for which the Government have spent over half a crore of rupees, it was after playing a good deal of dodge that the Municipality has been persuaded to pay about a lakh of rupees per annum.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Are dodges peculiar to the Trivandrum Municipality?

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Yes, I think so.

PRESIDENT: Dodging by whom?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): In the case of the mofussil Municipalities, it is the Government that dodge the Municipality. In Trivandrum alone, it is the Municipality that dodges the Government.

PRESIDENT: So, it is a vicious circle.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Thank you, Sir: it is exactly that.

I may just refer to conditions obtaining in a few towns in the neighbouring Province of British India. In Cuddalore town, a private company supplies electricity at two annas per unit for street lighting, In Villupuram, another private company supplies electric energy at 2¼ annas per unit with half anna rebate. Sir, both these towns are much smaller than Trivandrum, Kottayam Quilon or Alleppey. Naturally the total energy consumed in these towns in the Madras Presidency should be much less than in our towns. Where is the necessity, Sir, for the Electrical Department charging five annas per unit in the towns of Quilon and Trivandrum and a corresponding high rate for private consumption? It is this high rate charged by the Government that has been responsible for the private concerns in other towns making exorbitant demands. As a matter of fact, Sir, the Nagercoil Electric Supply Corporation demanded from the Nagercoil Municipality Rs. 40 per 40 Watt bulb burning for 6 hours per diem, which works out to over 8 annas per unit. The matter was taken to the Government by the Corporation; they called on their own Expert, namely the Electrical Engineer, to offer his opinion. He was at great pains to make out a case for Rs. 35 for a year for a 40 watt lamp burning 6 hours a day. And then the Government forwarded it to the Municipality saying that at Kottayam the rate charged was 8 annas per unit, that Rs. 35 for a 40 watt bulb burning for 6 hours every day was a reasonable demand, and that therefore the rate quoted by the Nagercoil Electricity Corporation may be accepted by the Nagercoil Municipality. Instead of allowing the Nagercoil Municipality to have its own way to deal with the supplier company and although the Government would not come forward with any kind of assitance for the Municipality, they actually made out a case on behalf of the Nagercoil Electricity Corporation charging Rs. 35 for every 40 watt bulb burning for 6 hours every day. But, the fun of it was that, ultimately, when the Municipality remained stern, the Nagercoil Electric Supply Corporation itself came down and offered to supply electricity at Rs. 25 per 40 watt bulb burning 6 hours every day.

I submit, Sir, that, at least to serve as an example to the other towns, the Government must necessarily reduce their rates in Trivandrum.

(*The Deputy President took the Chair at this stage.*)

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is the rate in Nagercoil?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): So far as the Municipality was concerned, the Electric Supply Corporation at Nagercoil first demanded Rs. 40 for one street light—which works out to over 8 annas

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

a unit —, and the Government, to whom the question went up for decision, made out a case for Rs. 35 per street lamp. But, in the end, the Electricity Corporation itself came down and offered to supply at Rs. 25 per street lamp, and thus betrayed the Government, their erst,—while protagonist.

Now what does it mean? That means it may be intended perhaps by the Government to put up a justification for the high rate charged per unit in Trivandrum town, or it may be jobbery of the worst type. Sir, such a thing is a disgrace to any civilised Government. What is the meaning of the Government asking the Municipality to pay at the rate of Rs. 35 when the supplier himself is prepared to offer at the rate of Rs. 25? That is why I said I stood up in support of the motion so that, when at least Trivandrum town is supplied at a reasonable rate by the Government themselves, there will be some safety for us to negotiate with private suppliers for a reasonable rate. Even this rate of Rs. 25 is too high. Any man could say that, particularly in these days when fuel is being supplied at a lower rate, there is absolutely no justification even for charging Rs. 25. That comes to about 4 annas 7 pies per unit. Compare this with the rate at Villipuram and Cuddalore which are not even one-fourth of the size of Trivandrum Town. For these reasons, I think that the Government have no justification whatsoever to continue the rate at six annas per unit for private consumption. They must cut it down corresponding to a rate far below 6 annas for house connections. I am sure that, with such low rate, the Municipalities can even get a rebate of half anna or even quarter anna. Sir, any electric supply concern, as the Dewan once said when he was at Nagercoil, if the business is well-managed, is never known to fail anywhere in any part of the world. What on earth then is the justification for the Electrical Engineer to say that the department could not be run as a business proposition if the rate is lowered? If it could not be run with charging at the rate of two annas per unit for street lighting, it has necessarily to be inferred that establishment and overhead charges are too high and have to be reduced. Sir, under these circumstances, there is absolutely no justification for Government to maintain the rate of six annas per unit which is too high for private consumers.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I oppose the motion. The Electric Supply Department was inaugurated only very recently, about seven years ago, and it is only in its infant stage. Sir, the electric supply is a sort of luxury which is denied to the people in the rural parts, and which ought to be enjoyed by a few privileged classes in Trivandrum. This Electric Department was built up at the cost of the tax-payers in Travancore; and when this luxury is denied to the other people in the State and is given to a very limited number of people, Sir, to say that the amount charged should be reduced cannot be tolerated by the tax-payers in the State.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): If electricity is supplied to the people in Nedumangad, what will be the attitude of the member?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I will come to that.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Do the people in Nedumangad want electricity?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir. I will come to that also. (*Laughter*)

Another point also this House will have to bear in mind. It is that this department will have to provide for an interest fund, a depreciation fund and a reserve fund.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know why there should be a reserve fund?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): That question should be put to the Financial Secretary. If I were in the position of the Financial Secretary, I would have answered the member. (*Laughter*) Sir, there is a provision set apart for it by Government; and such being the case, I do not question it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The smaller the price, the larger will be the consumption.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Not always, Sir. (*Laughter*) When a question was put to me by the honourable member Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, I said I will come to that. What I submit is that the Electric Department is in its infant stage. As soon as the Pallivasal scheme is completed and when the department is in a position to supply electricity for the whole of the State, even to rural areas in Nedumangad, in order to develop our cottage industries, then a time will come when we will have to demand that the charge for a unit must be reduced, say, to eight cash. But as matters stand now, Sir, the time has not yet arrived for reducing the rate.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Sir, I move that the question be now put.

The closure motion was put and carried.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, the question of reducing the rates for consumers using power for lights and fans was engaging my attention for the last two or three years; and I find that, based on the accounts of 1111, it is not possible to effect any reduction. Reproductive schemes, as the Financial Secretary has stated in his budget speech, should fetch at least six per cent. as judged by the standards laid down in British India. But here we are satisfied with a return of five per cent.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether the Financial Secretary has not stated that, if a scheme yielded four and half per cent. interest, it will be considered a reproductive scheme?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): He has stated five per cent., Sir. In such schemes we ought to provide for periods such as trade depression. Due either to trade depression or other reasons over which we have no control, times may come when it may not be possible to supply energy and make a profit thereby. It is for that that a reserve fund is absolutely essential, to safeguard against the possibilities of any interest deficit. So, it is usual in all commercial enterprises to take advantage of the prosperous years and leave a small margin so that in times of trade depression or world causse governing the prices of fuel, oil and other commodities—

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RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is there no trade depression now?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): The present trade depression has not affected the electric supply in Trivandrum. But it may affect the electric supply if the supply was on a large scale to industries.

As I was saying, there are one or two special features connected with the electric supply for which a reserve fund is very essential. Some of the apparatus connected with the electric supply distribution, like the transformers, are liable to go out of order due to unavoidable reasons like lightning troubles or other causes which we cannot ordinarily guard against. They may not be covered by the depreciation fund because at a time when this happens it may be that the depreciation fund has not fully matured. It is then that we have to draw from this reserve fund. Further, the reason why, in other large electric supply concerns the rates have been reduced is the existence of a strong reserve fund. In view of the fact that at the present rate the operation of 1111 has been distinctly increasing from the point of view of receipts, proposals have already been under the consideration of Government for the reduction of rates for energy supplied to lights and fans from six annas per unit to five annas per unit. This means about sixteen and a quarter per cent. reduction.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : How long is it since it was under the consideration of Government?

MR K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : For the last two months. Sir, as the House is aware, the first reduction in the rates for electric supply came within three years of the commencement of the operation and the consumer that was benefited was the industrial consumer. Now we have contemplated the question of reducing the rates for energy consumed for domestic lights and fans. With regard to the prohibitive charges mentioned by some members, the statistics will show that, in spite of the rate being six annas a unit, there has been a progressive increase in the number of consumers and and also in consumption for lights and fans. Without having to do any propaganda work, which is a usual feature of such commercial enterprises, we have been able to maintain the progress from year to year with the result that this year we have got nearly three hundred consumers during the period of the last 11½ months. That would clearly indicate that the rates are not as high as have been sought to be made out.

(*The President took the Chair at this stage.*)

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know the cost of production of a unit?

MR, K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, the member's attention is invited to the pages of the administration report of the department where it is given in detail.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is it not the same as in Bangalore?

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MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): No, there it is only two pies.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : How many years is it since the electric supply was started in Bangalore ?

PRESIDENT : It is a fact of history.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): With regard to the objection raised to drawing from the reserve fund for meeting the interest deficits of the Quilon Electric Supply, I have to give an explanation. The Quilon Electric Supply was inaugurated last year and it was in operation only for ten months. The receipts taken into account were only for nine months and the Karkatakam receipts were taken to the following year. So we were faced with a small interest deficit which is a quite usual thing in commercial undertakings of this nature in the first year. But the position this year is very satisfactory because we will be closing the accounts only after meeting the full interest charges on the Quilon Electric Supply without having the necessity to draw from the reserve fund. Technically also there should be no objection in pooling all these accounts as one. They are all in the nature of investments on reproductive works. It is not strictly speaking the tax-payer in Trivandrum that pays for the amenities of the tax-payer in Quilon. If that argument is pursued to a logical fineness, it means that every street will have to pay its way through irrespective of other considerations.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : Sir, the speech is not sufficiently audible.

PRESIDENT : Loud speaker?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I shall speak as loud as I can.

The ultimate idea is to link up these supplies with the Central Power House at Pallivasal. In that case there will be no revenue accounts and reserve funds for these various supplies separately. It may happen that, in rural distribution, one particular village may not be paying for its own supply. But it will be made up by profits from the neighbouring villages. It will not be necessary to keep accounts for these rural areas separately.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Are not the schemes distinct now ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : The schemes are distinct from the point of view of administrative control; and the accounts are kept separate with a view to know the profits derived from each work. If that argument is carried on to its logical fineness, it means that every street must be asked to pay for the number of lights it uses and the account should be kept separately.

In regard to Mr. Sivathanu Pillai's statement, I am sorry to say that it is based on very inaccurate information.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Thovala*): May I know whether the Electrical Engineer has not stated in his report that, compared to Trivandrum, the rate obtaining in Nagercoil is reasonable ?

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MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): If Mr. Sivathanu Pillai will bear with me for a moment, I shall refer to that.

He said that a 40 Watt lamp works at 8 annas. That is not correct at all. It is 3 annas. The rates for Villupuram and Cuddalore are 2 1/2 annas which does not refer to private consumers.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Thovala*): I did not say so.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I am sorry. I thought he was referring to private consumers The rate in Trivandrum works to 1·35 annas per unit. Sir, the rate recommended by the Electrical Chief Engineer to Government for acceptance by the Nagercoil Municipality was Rs. 35 per annum per light. That was done two years ago when the supplier had not entered into a forward contract for the purchase of oil.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): If it is Rs. 35, what is the rate per unit? Is it not below 3 annas?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I cannot say off-hand. There are several fixed charges to be added, such as cost of renewal of bulbs, cost of painting, etc.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Were all these included in the calculation before arriving at Rs. 35?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes. I have not got the details here.

My information is that, after working the supply for two years, the supplier was able to get oil at a cheaper rate, and therefore he was able to reduce the rate per unit. The impression produced by Mr. Sivathanu Pillai that the Electrical Engineer recommended a higher rate is misleading.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Thovala*): What was the reason for the supplier to reduce it to Rs. 25?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I have answered that, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Your time is coming to a close.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): There was another point mentioned by Mr. Asan, namely, that the Financial Secretary has given an impression that the reserve fund will be absorbed towards the revenue. I may say that as against that there is provision for sinking fund for the major Hydro Electric Scheme. We are not providing anything for the Trivandrum Electric Scheme. The funds for that came from the general revenues. So that what corresponds to the Trivandrum supply will correspond to the sinking fund of the Hydro Electric supply.

With regard to a complaint regarding deposits from consumers brought to my notice yesterday, I have investigated that matter. I find that one of the reasons why deposits have

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been increased was that the Account Officer made certain remarks in his audit report for the period ending with the Malabar year 1110. Some cases were detected by the Account Officer wherein money was not deposited to cover two months' probable consumption and the whereabouts of two of those consumers could not be traced at all. We were forced to the necessity of recommending to Government the writing off of their debts. With a view to prevent such cases arising hereafter, the Account Officer drew the attention of the Department to the necessity of increasing the deposit corresponding to two months' consumption. The deposit is estimated at the number of units of electricity that may be consumed for lights and fans for two months. It may be that, in some cases, the amount of current actually used is smaller than the departmental estimate. In such cases, after two months' trial the excess deposit will be refunded. In view of the explanation I have offered I request Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to withdraw the motion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, from the explanation given by the Electrical Engineer, I find that the rate per unit of current supplied to the ordinary consumer is going to be reduced. So far as I am concerned, my object temporarily at least has been achieved. I also see the reasonableness of his argument about the necessity of building up a reserve fund to safeguard against contingencies which may arise by which the price of oil may be pushed up and thus there may be a sudden increase in the rates which will upset domestic budgets.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Does the member realise that the consumption *in the main* in Trivandrum is for domestic purposes and also for Government buildings ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I understand from the Administration Report that a considerable portion of energy is consumed by the Government Offices. When you compare the proportion of private consumption in Quilon with Trivandrum, it will be seen that it is much less in Trivandrum, That is an argument which I may put forward in reply to the argument of Mr. Thanu Pillai against the mixing up of the accounts of the Quilon and Trivandrum electric supplies. The expenditure for the current supplied to the Public Offices is contributed by the tax-payers of the whole of Travancore.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know the proportion of the receipts that come from Government in Trivandrum ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*); I am not just now able to give it. It is a fairly high proportion. It can be inferred also from the fact that, as a matter of fact, more than the minimum is not being consumed by the majority of the consumers in Trivandrum. They do not go beyond the minimum of Re. 1 annas 8. So the vast bulk is got from the Government Offices for which we all pay. If the revenue from Trivandrum is worked out in that way, you will find that in one

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

or two years it will be the turn of Quilon to complain that their accounts should not be mixed up with Trivandrum. There are vast industrial concerns in Quilon; and the Quilon Scheme will be paying better than the Trivandrum Scheme. But we do not want to complain. It will not be proper to consider each particular case and calculate the profit and loss and then fix up the rate for a particular centre with reference to the revenue from that centre. That will be impracticable. If the Trivandrum Municipality had supplied the capital for these works, then that could have been allowed. But the capital for the Trivandrum Scheme comes from the whole of Travancore. The revenue for providing the capital expenses for the Trivandrum scheme comes from outside Trivandrum as well.

PRESIDENT: Are you pressing the motion?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): No, Sir.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions Nos. 84 to 87.

The following motions were not made :—

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

84. To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,32,567 for Working Expenses by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,32,567 for Working Expenses by Re. 1.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI :

86. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,35,400 for Working expenses by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

87. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,35,400 for Working Expenses by Re. 1.

Motion No. 88.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Sir, I move :—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for working expenses by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, on a point of order. The object given in this motion is to discuss the work done so far. The working expenses have to be begun only after six months, that is, after the expenses in connection with the electric project are incurred. Therefore, how could the work done so far be considered?

PRESIDENT: I was going to ask the member to lay his finger on that particular sum which this motion relates.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): My object is simply to ask for information on th Hydro Electric Project work.

PRESIDENT: That could have been achieved by sending an Interpellation on the subject.

MR R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): And, also to discuss the financial possibilities involved in the project.

PRESIDENT: That cannot be done.

Motion Nos. 89 to 92.

The following motions also were not made :—

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI :

89 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for working expenses by Rs. 5.

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MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*):

90. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for working expenses by Rs. 5.

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR:

91. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,15,067 for Electric Installation in Palaces, Government buildings, etc., by Re. 1.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI:

92. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 49800 for Trivandrum Electric Supply by Re. 1.

Motion No. 93.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Sir, I move:—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for study leave allowance to the Assistant Electrical Engineer.

I find there is no reason why study leave allowance should be given to one of the Assistants of the Electrical Chief Engineer. If there were no assistants in the department with sufficient qualification to do the work of an Assistant Engineer or Executive Engineer, then there would be some reason for deputing a man to England or some other place for higher studies. That is not the case, so far as my information goes.

There are matters for which we are urgently in need of money. It is stated in the Financial Secretary's speech that the Public Health Director wanted a good sum for sanitation in rural parts, but Government found only Rs. 10,000 for that purpose. Then more money is required for amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes and for various other things.

I understand also that there are 6 or 7 assistants in the Electrical Department itself who have had their training in England. Many of them have got high qualifications in Electrical Engineering. As such, I find no reason why a particular genleman should be sent to England at the expense of the tax payer for getting himself further qualified in Electrical Engineering.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I also support the motion. I do not think there is any necessity for Government to spend this amount. The Government could have asked this officer whether he could not get himself qualified for the post at his own cost. If he is not prepared to do that, I think there will be others in the department who will be prepared to incur the expenditure from their own pockets and get themselves qualified. There will also be a hundred others outside the department who will get themselves propely qualified by spending money out of their own pockets.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Am I to understand then that the present incumbent has not qualifications in Electrical Engineering?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I presume that he is not sufficiently qualified. Otherwise this garant for study leave is a

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

superfluity. If he is sufficiently qualified the ordinary presumption is that he need not go abroad to get himself further qualified. I take it, that since the department has provided for such a contingency, it must be presumed that one has to be deputed to England for obtaining further experience on Hydro-electrical works. If he is not qualified and if he is not prepared to spend from his own pocket then he must be sent out and somebody well qualified must be taken in. As it is, there is no dearth for getting suitable persons. That being the case, I do not find there is any justification for this expenditure.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I also support the motion. I endorse the views expressed by the previous speakers on the subject. Also, I would certainly object to the policy of Government in giving patronage to persons, whether deserving or undeserving, by sending them for further studies. I would have understood the necessity for such a provision if it were for a purely technical education. In these days when in every branch of service you get European qualified hands from outside and when there are people who are prepared to spend any amount of money from their own pockets to get themselves qualified, I do not find any necessity for incurring this expenditure.

Sir, if the Government had really wanted a duly qualified man, the best thing would have been to call for applications by an advertisement in the Gazette. If they had done so the necessity for such a provision would not have arisen. If they had done so and failed to get sufficient number of applications, with the qualifications which Government have prescribed, then, in that case, I could have understood the intention of providing for study leave.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government have not done the same thing with regard to other departments?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): In asmuch as it is possible for them to get candidates who are prepared to spend money from their own pockets for getting themselves qualified, there is no necessity to meet this expenditure.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Has not this House more than once accepted the principle of study leave allowance?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): That is no reason why this should be granted now.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Have not Government and this House disallowed such grants?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Yes. Under these circumstances I do not find such a grant should be repeated.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Sir, I am certainly not in favour of expending money on doubtful schemes whether it is to benefit a particular individual or to

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benefit the whole State. I thought there was considerable force in the arguments advanced by Mr. Kottur and others who spoke after him. But at the same time, I must say that there are rules on the subject. There is a practice of sending people for higher studies to England and other places. That will give an incentive to certain persons to get more knowledge than they now possess. A quest for knowledge ought to be encouraged and that is what the Government have been doing. If higher qualifications are available in medicine and surgery, education and other fields, there is no particular reason why it should not be availed of in the Public Works Department or other connected departments. The whole question according to me is this. If the Government is convinced that it will be advantageous to the Public Service to send out a man for higher studies, the matter deserves consideration by us. Not that the Government view should always be taken as passed but when there is a scheme under which certain people are allowed to go to other countries to acquire knowledge, to make a distinction between one department and another is certainly bad.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Does the member realise that this amount will form part of capital expenditure on Hydro Electric Scheme and that it will be wrong to incur such expenditure ?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I think Mr. Thanu Pillai has not understood me very clearly. I am only saying that the general principle of enabling persons to get better knowledge ought to be encouraged by Government. If there are rules on the subject formulated by Government, which I believe there are, and I find in every other Governments there are such rules enabling their servants to proceed on study leave, it becomes more or less a kind of statutory obligatton on the part of Government, so that it may for practical purposes have force. That general principle every one should admit.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know, whether the member is aware that Government have refused any number of applications for study leave?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I am aware of that. Sir, if the Government rejected them wrongly, I shall certainly not favour Government. I am only saying if the Government come forward with the reccommendation for sending a particular officer, to say that the particular rule should not be applied in this case is wrong. If you want it, better advocate abolition of the rules on the subject.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*) : Does the member think the Government will have any particular advantage in sending out a particular man for further training?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I am not concerned with particular individuals at all. I am concerned with the general principle involved and that is the principle which I adhere to. Government, whenever they have rules on the subject, must do according to the rules and make a selection of the individual concerned.

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MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): On a point of order Can a question of policy of providing funds for study leave be discussed under this specific cut?

PRESIDENT: What I understood the honourable member to say was that Government having already laid down a particular policy, this provision is consistent with that policy and therefore the elimination of this will be inconsistent with that policy.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I referred only to the general aspect of the question. I thought I should support that position.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, this provision of study leave for one of the Electrical Assistant Engineers was made with a view to enable him to go abroad, not for undergoing any studies in recognised College or University, but to familiarise himself in certain Hydro-Electric Schemes. Works connected with Hydro-Electric operations are very very intricate.

The working connected with Hydro-Electric Scheme is very very technical and requires considerable skill.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Why not depute that officer to visit those schemes? Why give him study leave?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): That is the same thing, Sir; I understand that deputation will be more expensive.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): May I know whether there are Hydro-Electric experts in the State?

PRESIDENT: That will depend upon the understanding of the meaning of the word 'expert'.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertalai II*): May I know whether there is any Travancoreans who is qualified in Hydro-Electric Schemes?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): There are some. But unfortunately all of them are not available because they are employed in better positions elsewhere.

It is necessary to have at least one of the Assistant Engineers trained up for this highly technical post.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether Government advertised for this post?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) It will be far more expensive. As far as I know and I am thoroughly familiar with most of the Travancoreans who are qualified in this kind of work and with whom I am in personal touch.....

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know how long he is to be on leave and what is the pay during that time? Is this Rs. 2,500 to be given to him?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Enginneer to Government*): It is to be given under Study Leave Rules.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottyam I*): May I know whether there is any special reason for selecting this particular officer?

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MR. K. P. PADNANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): He is the seniormost in the department and he has got more experience than all others. It was considered desirable to select the seniormost officer for this particular work.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : May I know whether any one of his assistants is willing to go at his own cost?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I have not made enquiries, Sir.

PRESIDENT : The question is whether each and every man who wishes to go should be sent or the particular officer whom the Electrical Engineer wants to send should go.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): At the same time, it was considered desirable to select the most suitable man for that particular work ; and in the opinion of the Electrical Engineer, this Assistant Engineer was considered the most suitable in view of the fact that he has been in touch with the whole construction work of the—

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESWARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): What is the name of the officer ?

MR. K. P. PADMANACHA MENON (*El ctrical Engineer to Government*) ; Mr. Joseph John.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Whenever a discussion takes place, what is the use of knowing the names of particular individuals?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, a word of personal explanation. It was said by the Electrical Engineer that this particular man was the most competent officer. So I wanted to know his name.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : As a matter of fact, there is only one Assistant Electrical Engineer in the whole department. It was considered desirable to give him the benefit of the concessions provided under the Study Leave Rules.

MR. A.THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know the best time to enable this officer to prosecute his studies? Is it after the works are completed or before that?

MR. K. P. PADMANAHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : Certainly after the works are completed.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I know at whose instance he is sent ? Is it on his own request or at the instance of Government ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*) : Nobody is sent. The proposal is to provide funds for the next year. The intiative is with the Electrical Engineer to Government.

To make the position clear, the object of the particular officer's visit abroad is to spend two or three months in each typical plant and get familiarised with the various types of machinery and find out the conditions under which such operations are generally carried out and also to get familiarised with the type of troubles that have to be anticipated. Such experience can be gained only by working in a station

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[Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon]

which is already functioning. Such experience was considered very desirable before that officer could be entrusted with the charge of a very important station like the one at Pallivasal. That was the reason which induced the Electrical Engineer to make his recommendation. In view of the explanation given by me, I hope, the mover of the motion will find his way to withdraw the motion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know what all places he has to visit ?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Mostly in Switzerland and Netherland where Electrical Schemes have considerably developed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know whether this amount will cover the total expenditure?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): I believe provision is made for six months in the next year. The total period is one yer.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): So he has to go by the middle of next year?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May 1 know the total amount that has to be spent on this account?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): About Rs. 5,000.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : I press the motion.

PRESIDENT : The motion before the House is to omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for study leave to the Assistant Electrical Engineer.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and lost.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—27.

1	Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar	14	Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai
2	,, A. S. Damodaran Asan	15	,, P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
3	,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	16	,, Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
4	,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	17	,, S. Nilakanta Pillai
5	,, K. R. Elenkath.	18	,, K. Padmanabhan
6	,, S. J. Nair	19	,, Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
7	,, K. C. Karunakaran	20	,, Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
8	,, K. M. Krishnan	21	,, V. Ramakrishna Panickar
9	,, K. P. Krishna Menon	22	,, R. Raman Pillai
10	,, Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	23	,, R. Sivaraman Nair
11	,, N. K. Krishna Pillai	24	,, A. Thanu Pillai
12	,, Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai	25	,, P.K. Thomas
13	,, T. Krishna Pillai	26	,, V. K. Velappan Nair
		27	,, T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

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NOES—32.

1 Mr. K. C. Abraham
2 ,, T. K. Alexander
3 Vastu Vidya Kusala C. Balakrishna Rao
4 Mr. V. T. Chacko
5 ,, C. V. Chandrasekharan
6 ,, Antony George
7 ,, K. George
8 Miss Hepzibah Gnanasikamony
9 Mr. M. Mahomed Haneef
10 ,, N. John Joseph
11 ,, J. M. Joseph
12 ,, T. C. Joseph
13 ,, Menatheri N. Kesava Panickar
14 ,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri
15 ,, E. V. Krishna Pillai
16 Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
17 ,, P. C. Kuriyan
18 Mr. C. O. Madhavan
19 ,, K. Madhavan
20 ,, K. Mahomed
21 Srimati T. Narayani Amma
22 Mr. G. Nilakantan
23 ,, K. P. Padmanabha Menon
24 ,, N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
25 ,, Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
26 Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswami Aiyar
27 Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai
28 ,, S. Thiraviam Nadar
29 ,, T. C. Thommen
30 ,, John Whitely Tolson
31 ,, N. E. Varughese
32 Sadasya Tilakan T. K. Velu Pillai

NEUTRALS—9.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib
2 ,, M. K. Janardana Kammath
3 ,, T. S. Jayantan Namputiri
4 ,, E. K. Kunjuraman
5 ,, M. K. Madhavan Pillai
6 ,, K. A. Narayana Pillai
7 Rao Sahib S. Parameswara Aiyar
8 Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai
9 ,, R. Sambasiva Aiyar

Motions Nos. 94 to 97.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

94. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,100 for Direction by Re. 1

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI :

95. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,100 for Direction by Re. 1

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR :

96. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,06,181 for Supervision by Rs. 2.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR :

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,06,181 for Supervision by Re. 1.

Motion No. 98.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

"*To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 28,09,832 *for Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme by Re. 1.*

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[Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai.]

The object of the motion is, as shown in the printed list, to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity of extending Electric supply to all mofussil stations. As the matter stands at present and as I understand, the electric supply is to be given to people one hundred and one hundred and fifty miles away from Pallivasal, *i. e.*, people in places like Kottayam, Quilon and Alleppey and other nearer places are not going to get the electric supply. When every morning we see the imposing posts standing in front of our doors with the transmission wires connected to these posts carrying electricity from Pallivasal to Quilon and Alleppey, would it not be a sad spectacle in the evening to see that we are deprived of the benefit of the scheme consuming a crore of rupees. We, the people in Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha and other taluks in North Travancore through which the line passes, are not at all to be benefited by the scheme.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know how the member knew that the energy is not to be supplied in those places?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): I understand the policy of the department is to extend the supply of electricity only to a few towns of the State and not to all possible stations in Travancore. It is my information. Further I had a discussion with the Electrical Engineer; and he said that it is not possible for electricity being supplied to other places. I submit that an allotment of this nature to benefit only two or three towns in the State is too high to go without any criticism.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is it the member's suggestion that every station should be supplied with electricity?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): All possible and feasible stations should be supplied. I say that, as far as possible, at least the headquarters of taluks should be supplied with electricity.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Is it the idea of the member that with this amount the whole State can be supplied with light?

MR. K A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): If one crore of rupees is to be spent in supply of electricity and people far away from Pallivasal such as Quilon and Alleppey are to be benefited, why not people of Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha through which the line passes also get the benefit even if it were a little more costly? I do not question why such a huge amount is spent in Trivandrum and Quilon for electric supply from the general funds of the State. Why not we also get the benefit of the scheme? Are not we also paying taxes to Government? Why not we also enjoy at least some of the social amenities of life.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether it is the opinion of the member that, in cases where general funds are taken and spent, that fund should not be remunerative, that amount should be invested that should not be remunerative?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Why not it be remunerative to us also? It should be remunerative and it cannot but bring a return by extending it to other taluks also.

PRESIDENT: There are only ten minutes left for completing the discussion of Demand II. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 'o clock.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2 of the Clock with the Deputy President in the Chair.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, my argument that the supply of electricity from Pallivasal is not going to be extended to North Travancore is supported by the statement in the Administration Report of 1116 at Page 171. The statement runs thus: —

> "The transmission lines from Pallivasal will go to Kothamangalam wherefrom they will branch off, one set going to Alwaye and the other to Pallam near Kottayam) where the two main receiving stations will be located. From Pallam the lines will be extended to Peermade and Quilon and also to Kottayam Changanachery, Alleppey and other towns."

It is clear from this statement that from Pallam this line is not going to be extended to Todupuzha, Muvattupuzha and Meenachil. Because Alwaye and Kothamangalam are nearer to Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha and it is not proposed to extend the line from Kothamangalam or Alwaye. The policy of Government, as seen from the Report, is not to extend the line to other taluks in the Kottayam Division. I am afraid, Sir, it would seem that it is a sin for us to have been born in the Kottayam Division because none of the amenities that are available to other parts of the State are available to us. Yesterday reference was made to the fact that reduction of charges would facilitate better consumption of electricity. Similarly extension of the supply to other parts of the State would mean better consumption and wide popularity. If the line is extended, I wish to point out that the advantage of utilising the electricity would be more popularised and there would be better consumption and a fairly good return. It does not require any lengthy argument for me to convince the House that the people of North Travancore would get some of the amenities of life if the line is extended and the extension is a necessity. With these words, I move the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir; I wish to bring to the notice of the House and the Government an important point in connection with this. The supply of electricity must be extended to Kottarakara Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara for very important reasons. It is admitted by all that all the eastern *pakuthies* of these taluks are malaria-affected areas.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What is the distance between Pallivasal and Nedumangad?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I shall come to it presently. Under the scheme, the Electrical Engineer is prepared to supply electricity to the Cochin State also, as there is plenty of electric current available. Sir, as a result of extending electricity to the eastern *pakuthies* of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara, malaria could be effectively controlled. If you put up certain brilliant dazzling lights in those parts just as the lights we find at certain junctions in the Trivandrum Town, the mosquitoes could be attracted by the lights; and if you put up electric fans underneath those brilliant lights, construct a big tub and fill it with water, the mosquitoes could easily be destroyed. So, it would be an effective control over the malaria in the eastern *pakuthies* of the taluks I mentioned. Hence it is an urgent necessity.

MR. A THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Has the member given this discovery to the world?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): As the result of a practical experiment that I conducted in a small scale, I am giving out this, the results of my discovery? It is for the House and the Government to consider the question very seriously.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I wish to say a few words in support of the motion, the object being to impress upon the Government the necessity for opening a sub-station at Chengannoor and to make it possible for the local public to enjoy the benefit arising out of this scheme. Sir, the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project is intended to increase the social amenities of the people and also to improve the agricultural and industrial condition of the people. Many of the respectable citizens of Chengannoor have submitted a written representation to the Electrical Engineer for opening a sub-station there to give amenities to the social life of the people of the locality and to improve the condition of agriculturists of that place. I do not know whether any action has hitherto been taken by the Electrical Engineer on such representation. So I support the motion with a view to urge upon the early attention of the Government the necessity for opening a sub-station at Chengannoor.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Sir, the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme is a big concern costing the State more than a crore of rupees and the Electrical Engineer seems to suggest that if full advantage is to be taken by the rural population private Companies must come forward and utilise the power. It is a new idea and people do not evince much enthuasiasm. In that case, my submission is that the Electrical Department should do propaganda and attract people of each taluk and of each locality to come forward and organise. Some attractive concessions may also be given by the department to local bodies who come forward so that the full utility may be derived from the scheme. Otherwise very serious hardship will be the result. In places where there is no municipality, as in Shertala, if Government, because of financial considerations, fail to take up local distribution, the very object of this great undertaking will

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be frustrated. It is a real handicap with us. In this State, we have no Panchayat or Taluk Board functioning to take up works of this nature.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Sir, I have only one point: that is I would like to know what are the details about which Signor Marcello and Major Howard were consulted by the Government. I find they were consulted lately. What was the necessity for the same? Why should the Head-works which were promised to be constructed even as early as 1936 be postponed for such a long time? It is stated in the speech of the Financial Secretary that the construction of the Head-works will be taken up just after the monsoon. I would like to know what has been the cause of the delay in regard to that. Sir, there are wide rumours that the site chosen for the Power House is quite unsuited for the purpose and that there is danger of its being washed away when the water comes.

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Sir, with regard to the situation in the rural areas, Mr. Narayana Pillai's assumption, based on the statement contained in the Administration Report, is not quite correct. The Administration Report refers to the main transmission lines from Pallivasal at a pressure 66,000 volts. And every sub-station provides for a certain area of local distribution covering about 25 miles. That is provided in the system. Similarly at Alwaye and Pallam also arrangements have been made for distribution. It is the ultimate aim to interlink all the sub-stations through subsidiary lines so that the whole area covered by the main transmission line will be fed by these branch lines as and when demand increases. With a view to make the scheme a remunerative proposition from the very beginning, it is essential to concentrate attention on such of those areas as will bring in return so that there may be no deficit on the scheme. It would be a dead-weight on the whole project. For that purpose, selected areas are now being chosen in the programme of construction in the first stage and every important town and village will come under the operation of the first stage. If increased demand, due to the increased facilities both for irrigation and for domestic requirements arises, as a result of supply of cheap power, it will be possible to extend this line ultimately to other areas, these areas not being remunerative by themselves, but the development of which will ultimately be to the advantage of the State. So the question of rural distribution has been kept in view in the programme of construction and we have got in our present stage of work nearly 50 miles of such lines which cover about 10 or 12 important towns and villages.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether, after the completion of the Pallivasal Scheme, it will be possible to supply electricity to the whole State?

MR. K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to the Government*): Sir, there is nothing technically difficult about that. In fact in our designs of the transmission stage, all these points are kept in view.

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[Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon.]

With regard to the reason why two Engineers were invited to give their advice, the situation can be explained as follows. When the whole scheme was first designed and details worked out, the department had one or two special problems in connection with the head.works. One was with regard to the control of water which varies from a minimum discharge of 45,000 to a maximum discharge of 66,000. The design on such works required special considerations based on previous experience. Had the design not been fully satisfied, it might necessitate flooding of certain important valuable lands for which compensation would have been excessive. Moreover the place where the water is being diverted is not very far from the main catchment with the result that during every outburst of rain, sand, sediment and silt is washed and the course of the river being precipitous for a considerable length, the water does not get sufficient space to settle down and dispose of the settled water in the normal course. So this special treatment of sedimentation was another problem that had to be solved.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT. Is the motion pressed?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Thodupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): In view of the answer given by the Electrical Engineer, I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The motion that a sum of Rs. 36,24,149 be granted under Demand II—Electricity and Telephone was put to vote and the grant was made.

Motions 99 to 102.

The following motions lapsed on account of time-limit:—

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR:

99. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,09,832 for Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme by Re 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

100. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 36,24,149 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI:

101. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 36,24,149 under Demand II by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH:

102. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 36,24,149 under Demand II by Re. 1.

DEMAND III—WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE DEPARTMENT.

VASTU VIDYA KUSALA C. BALAKRISHNA RAO (*Water Works and Drainage Engineer*: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25,78,440 under Demand III—Water Works and Drainage.

Motion No. 103.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I beg to move:—

The allotment of Rs. 900 for Assistant Supervising Engineer be omitted under Willingdon Water Works—Working expenses.

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